



**LUCA MARIA PATELLA**  
**SELFENCYCLOPEDIA:**  
**"WRITING"**

opening  
Thursday 30 March, 2017  
at 6.30 pm

**30.03.2017**  
**23.06.2017**

curated by  
Marco Scotini

**LAURA BULIAN GALLERY**  
via Piranesi 10, 20137 Milano  
[www.laurabuliangallery.com](http://www.laurabuliangallery.com)

Monday – Friday, 15 – 19 pm  
Morning by appointment  
Free entrance



The **Laura Bulian Gallery** is pleased to announce the inauguration of *selfEncyclopedia* by **Luca Maria Patella**, a solo exhibition which marks his return to Milan after an absence of thirty years. It is an ideal follow up on one of our previous group shows *The Fourth Prose* (2015); Patella's exhibition deals with the visual word and writing throughout his artistic development, from the sixties to today. The title itself *selfEncyclopedia* can be read as the opening chapter to what might be considered a reconnaissance, a progressive timeline of the work of one of the most interesting and elusive masters of Italian conceptual art.

Though Luca Maria Patella may be considered a champion of interdisciplinarity, a tireless experimenter in artistic languages and an artist who is difficult to classify, within his multi-faceted work preference has been given to innovative and open-minded exploits into film and photography, genres in which the artist has been rightly recognized as a precursor of many later and present-day trends. Furthermore, it is true that films such as *Terra Animata* (*Animated Earth* 1965-67) or *SKMP2* (1968), and likewise his "projected environments", are now considered cornerstones of multimedia research as well as important artistic advancements. And yet, verbal language (whether oral or written) is surely the raw, plastic material of Patella's entire activity, though his research is equidistant from either analytical-structural type tautologies or the *cut up* of contemporary visual poetry.

Word and sign enter Luca Maria Patella's different layouts (graphics, photography, film and performance), proliferating and disseminating both inside and outside formats, as puns and word plays; magical territories that crumble and reform incessantly, that disintegrate and recombine at different speeds, according to different states of focus. Each word breaks up into a multiplicity of syllables that shatter the semantic plane and recombine at a phonetic level or vice-versa. But they can also multiply

or else overturn when reflected in mirrors, they contract into ideographic schemes or else spill over and circulate from one medium to another. The usual codes of interpretation and models of communication turn out to be inadequate or compromised, likewise for points of perception and the subject's behaviour.

By resorting to psychoanalysis (from Jung to Lacan) and Duchamp's *Infra-slim*, what Patella intends to undermine are the structures of location and identification that we use to capture the world, things and ourselves. The aim of dismantling these structures is to open that which is possible, favouring matter which is always mobile, a flux which is never fixed in stereotypes or conventions but is rather ongoing, becoming. For this reason, apart from the films, the photographic canvases and installations, there is an intense output in print which now numbers over sixty monographic publications on different subjects and formats starting from the first explosive artist's book entitled *I am here* dated 1975 and including all the issues of his *Official or Unofficial Journal*.

The title of the exhibition refers both to the primary role played by words in Patella's work and his ironic claim to establish another complete cognitive system, spanning the whole range of knowledge, from art to science, starting out from his own psychoanalytic self-analysis. Thus *self-Encyclopedia* aims at being a sort of anthology of Patella's work, seen at this phase through writing. It is, moreover, a homage to another one of his mentors, the proto-psychoanalyst Denis Diderot, to whom he devoted a volume in 1984 entitled *Jacques Le Fataliste come Autoencyclopédie*, which will be reprinted for this Milanese exhibition by Archive Books and Laura Bulian Editions.

"I belong to no one – wrote Diderot – and I belong to all: you were here before you entered and you will be here after you leave". And for Patella, this is just the subconscious.

**Luca Maria Patella** was born in 1934 in Rome, Italy. He lives and works in Rome, Italy.

#### SELECTED WORKS SINCE 2006

2017 — *Luca Maria Patella. autoEncyclopédie: La scrittura*, curated by Marco Scotini, Laura Bulian Gallery, Milan, Italy (solo show)

2016 — *Versus — La Sfida Dell'artista Al Suo Modello In Un Secolo Di Fotografia E Disegno*, Galleria Civica di Modena, Modena, Italy; *Luca Maria Patella — Ambienti proiettivi animati, 1964-1984*, MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, Italy (solo show); *Segni, Alfabeti, Scritture. Percorsi Nell'arte Contemporanea Attraverso La Collezione Macro*, MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, Italy

2015 — *Egosuperegoalterego. Volto E Corpo Contemporaneo Dell'Arte*, MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, Italy

2014 — *Scenario di terra*, MART — Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto, Italy; *Il paesaggio italiano. Fotografie 1950 – 2010*, Museo di Roma in Trastevere, Rome, Italy

2013 — *Anni '70. Arte a Roma*, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, Italy; *Project Room. Fotografia dalle collezioni*, Centro de Arte Moderna e Contemporanea della Spezia (CAMEC), La Spezia, Italy; *Duchamp re-made in Italy*, GNAM, Rome, Italy

2012 — *Ritratto di una città. Arte a Roma 1960 – 2001*, MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, Italy; *Libri d'artista e altri racconti*, GAM - Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Gallarate, Gallarate, Italy; *Forte Piano: Le forme del suono Prima parte*, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome, Italy; *Ends of the Earth, Land Art to 1974*, MOCA, Los Angeles, USA

2011 — *Lvi Mostra Nazionale Premio Città Di Termoli 2011*, Galleria Civica D'arte Contemporanea, Termoli, Campobasso, Italy; *Italian Landscape In Photography Of The 1950's–2000's* - Stroganov Palace, Saint Petersburg, Russia

2010 — *Luca Maria Patella. Proiezioni e visioni cosmiche 1965/1969*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (GNAM), Rome, Italy (solo show); *Ergo, materia. Arte povera*, Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Messico City, Messico

2009 — *Italics: Italian Art between Tradition and Revolution 1968–2008*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA), Chicago, USA; *Art of Live - for 5 000 €*, La Triennale di Milano. Design Museum, Milan, Italy

2008 — *Italics. Arte Italiana fra Tradizione e Rivoluzione, 1968-2008*, Palazzo Grassi - Francois Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy

2007 — *CAPRIBATTERIE la quarta*, arteversum, Düsseldorf, Germany

2006 — *Italy made in art – Now*, MOCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China

*special thanks to*

REWINDItalia Archive, DJCAD,  
University of Dundee, UK  
Luciano Marucci, Ascoli Piceno, Italy  
Fondazione Morra, Napoli, Italy